APPOINTMENT OF AIR ATTACHÉ

Wing Commander Thomas Walker Elmhirst, A.F.C., has been selected as Air Attaché, Angora, and will take up his duties shortly. He is the first Air Attaché to be accredited to the Turkish capital.

SCHOOL OF AIR NAVIGATION

The undermentioned officers, having successfully completed the Specialist Navigation Course at the School of Air Navigation, Manston, which terminated on November 7, 1936, are granted the symbol "N":—

Flt. Lts. L. F. Brown, W. E. Oulton, J. J. Owen, G. J. L. Read, G. I. L. Saye, A.F.C., and W. P. Welch. The undermentioned officers also successfully completed the course: Flt. Lts. J. G. Bryans (R.C.A.F.), and R. C. Hiemstra (S.A.A.F.).

No. 40 SQUADRON

No. 40 Squadron will celebrate the 21st anniversary of its formation on February 25, on which date it is proposed to hold a dinner and dance for all ranks in the Station Institute, R.A.F. Station, Abingdon, Berks. The Officer Commanding No. 40 Squadron would be glad to hear from any Officers, N.C.O.s or Airmen who served in the Squadron, and who wish to attend the dinner and dance, the cost of which is 5s. (exclusive of wines), before February 15.

TRANSFER OF OFFICERS TO THE RESERVE

The undermentioned short service, medium service and non-permanent officers should note that they become due in June and July next for transfer to the reserve, or (where indicated) for relinquishment of commission, on completing their period of service on the active list:—

General Duties Branch

Flt. Lts. Montagu Victor Murray Clube, Francis Guy Mason, Ronald William Macdonald Clark, and Edward Charles Smith-Ross.

Medical Branch

Flt. Lt. Joseph Francis Ziegler, M.B., B.S.

Dental Branch

Flt. Lt. David Ivan Malcomson, L.D.S.

Chaplains Branch

The Revd. Richard Rees. (To relinquish commission, not liable for reserve service.)

Statements from the Revd. R. Rees and Flt. Lt. Malcomson indicating whether or not they desire to be considered for an extension of service to six and ten years on the active list respectively, are to be forwarded forthwith.

No. 6 (AUXILIARY) GROUP

In the issue for 1936 of the magazine of No. 603 (City of Edinburgh) (Bomber) Squadron, Air Comdre. J. C. Quinnell, D.F.C., reviews the recent changes in the Auxiliary Air Force. Early in 1935 it consisted of eight squadrons; there are now fifteen. The increase is due to raising three new squadrons and converting four Special Reserve squadrons. Four new A.A.F. squadrons have still to be raised, and the Ulster squadron may be converted from S.R. to A.A.F. Within the next few months there will be A.A.F. army co-operation squadrons, which will be provided either by forming them direct or by converting existing squadrons from bomber to A.C. duties. In case of conversion, new squadrons will be raised to take the place of those converted. The City of Edinburgh Squadron is under consideration for such a conversion, but new factors are arising which may prevent it from taking place.

OFFICERS AND AIRMEN OF THE JEWISH FAITH

So far as the exigencies of the service permit, leave should be granted to officers and airmen of the Jewish Faith stationed at home who may desire to observe the undermentioned holy days during the current year:—(i) Feast of the Passover, March 27 to April 3; (ii) Feast of Pentecost, May 16 and 17; (iii) New Year, September 6 and 7; (iv) Day of Atonement, September 15; (v) Feast of Tabernacles, September 20 and 21. Leave may also be granted to officers and airmen serving abroad at stations where facilities exist for observing these holy days. The personnel concerned should be excused duty as from sunset on the previous day. The leave granted under this order will count as part of the ordinary annual leave.

ANOTHER NEW SQUADRON

No. 63 (Bomber) Squadron formed at Andover on February 15. The unit will be equipped with medium bomber aircraft and placed in the Bomber Command in No. 2 (Bomber) Group. The unit will move to Upwood on March 4.

FROM BOMBERS TO FIGHTERS

No. 608 (North Riding) (Bomber) Squadron has been renamed No. 608 (North Riding) (Fighter) Squadron with effect from January 16.

SHORT SERVICE OFFICERS

The Air Council have decided that extensions of the active list period of the commissions of short service officers entered for four years may be granted to a limited number of short service officers who volunteer and are recommended therefor on completion of eighteen months' service. The service of officers so selected will be extended to complete six years on the active list (including the time spent at a civil school) followed by six years on the reserve. The gratuity for each additional year on the active list will be £100.

COURSES OF INSTRUCTION AT MANUFACTURERS' WORKS

Courses of instruction on aircraft and engines will be arranged at manufacturers' works for a strictly limited number of R.A.F. supervisory personnel. No course will exceed twelve working days and will normally commence on a Monday and terminate on a Friday. The number of personnel sent forward from each unit should be kept to a minimum.

OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION, R.N. SEAPLANE BASE, PORT SAID

The fifteenth annual reunion of the Old Comrades Association, R.N. Seaplane Base, Port Said, will be held in London on Saturday, February 20. Particulars may be obtained from Mr. Norman M. Williams, 16, Shrewsbury Avenue, East Sheen, S.W.14.

AIRMAN PILOTS

Airmen who are accepted for training as pilots after the date of this order and are subsequently selected for re-engagement will be required to keep in flying practice until they attain the age of 42 or are promoted to warrant rank, whichever occurs first. It will, however, be within the discretion of an air or other officer commanding, on the recommendation of a C.O., to decide at any time that an airman shall no longer be retained in flying practice if evidence that he has ceased to be an efficient pilot is forthcoming. While retained in practice, airmen will be liable for pilot service in emergency.

FLYING ACCIDENTS

The Air Ministry regrets to announce that P/O. Robert Douglas Blair (Second pilot) is missing and is presumed to have lost his life as the result of an accident which occurred at Seletar on February 2, to an aircraft of No. 205 (Flying Boat) Squadron, Seletar, Singapore. The first pilot of the aircraft, Sqn. Ldr. Albert Wentworth Bates, and the following members of the crew were slightly injured: L.A/C. William Trevor Davies, A/C.1 Joe Lee, A/C.1 Leonard Frank Wilkins, and A/C.1 Alexander Thomas Edward Daniells.

The Air Ministry regrets to announce that Lieutenant Gerald Arthur Vardon, Royal Navy, Flying Officer, Royal Air Force, and No. P/JX 129984 Telegraphist Bert Overal, Royal Navy, lost their lives as the result of a collision in the air which occurred off Alexandria on February 5, 1937, between two aircraft of No. 825 (Fleet Spotter Reconnaissance) Squadron, embarked of H.M.S. *Glorious*.

Lieutenant Vardon and Telegraphist Overal were the pilot and passenger of one aircraft. The occupants of the second aircraft are safe and uninjured.

Also that P/O. Michael Philip Forte and L.A/C. F. W. East lost their lives in an accident which occurred at Waddington on February 6 to an aircraft of No. 503 (County of Lincoln) (Bomber) Squadron. P/O. Forte was the pilot of the aircraft and L.A/C. East the passenger.

Also that A.P/O. Arthur Simpson lost his life in an accident which occurred at Minera Mine, near Wrexham, on February 12, to an aircraft of No. 5 Flying Training School, Sealand, Chester. A.P/O. Simpson was the pilot and sole occupant of the aircraft.

ROYAL AIR FORCE GAZETTE

London Gazette, February 9, 1937

General Duties Branch

Flt. Lt. T. F. U. Lang is granted a permanent commission in that rank (February 6).

The following are granted permanent commissions as Pilot Officers with effect from February 1 and with seniority of the dates stated:—N. M. Bayliss (May 1, 1935); A. G. H. Bell, G. P. Harger, A. T. Irvine (November 1, 1935).

The following are granted short service commissions as Acting Pilot Officers on probation with effect from and with seniority of the dates stated:—M. R. Atkinson, P. C. S. Bagley, C. A. Baskett, R. C. Beaman, H. W. Beggs, R. L. C. Branson, J. R. Brown, P. H. Buckley, R. H. Bullard-Davies, T. M. Bulloch, B. F. Burbridge, E. J. Clarke, T. A. Darling, F. L. H. Eddison, D. I. Fairbairn,